

Weekly Police Beat for the Week Ending 12/23/2016

Home Burglar Alarm Tips

Many Village residents have installed burglar alarms in their homes while others are considering having a system installed or upgrading their existing system. Please consider the following:

1. **Security cameras are great.** Today, integrating cameras that record either to a local DVR or to a cloud-based server is affordable. Many systems allow you to view your cameras remotely—anywhere, anytime—via the internet. Cameras not only provide you with peace of mind, but they have proved invaluable time and again in the aftermath of a crime.

At a minimum, we recommend 3 exterior cameras: one camera at your front door or porch to capture anyone approaching the door; a second camera which captures a wider view of the driveway and front yard; and a third camera capturing the back door, back yard, or rear deck.

If you are thinking of installing a new alarm system, please ask your professional installer about adding cameras. And if you already have an alarm system, consider asking about the cost of upgrading your system.

2. **Register your alarm with the Village; NOT with Montgomery County.** The County's alarm law does not apply in the Village, but you must register your alarm with the Village. It's free and easy; you can fill out the registration form on the Village website. For your convenience, here is the link to the form:

<http://www.chevy ChaseVillageMD.gov/FormCenter/Police-Department-4/Alarm-User-Registration-Form-70>

3. **Make sure that your alarm monitoring company calls the Village for a police response—not Montgomery County.** Give your monitoring company our number—301-654-7300—to get the fastest police response. If your company calls Montgomery County's Communications Center, they will dispatch us, but there will be a delay.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this topic in greater detail, please call Chief John Fitzgerald and he'll be glad to chat with you.

Here's wishing you a happy holiday season and a safe, prosperous new year!